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E19

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/000W

-----ED7A5A 172038Z /62

O 171935Z FEB 04
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5003
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

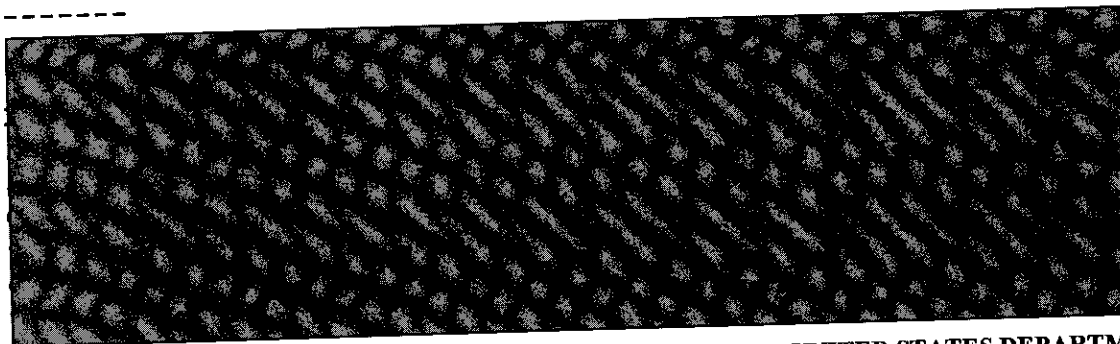
C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000560

NSC FOR CBARTON
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/2014
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: DAS DESHAZO PRESSES SIGNATURE COUNT WITH VP RANGEL

Classified By: Abelardo A. Arias, Political Counselor,
for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

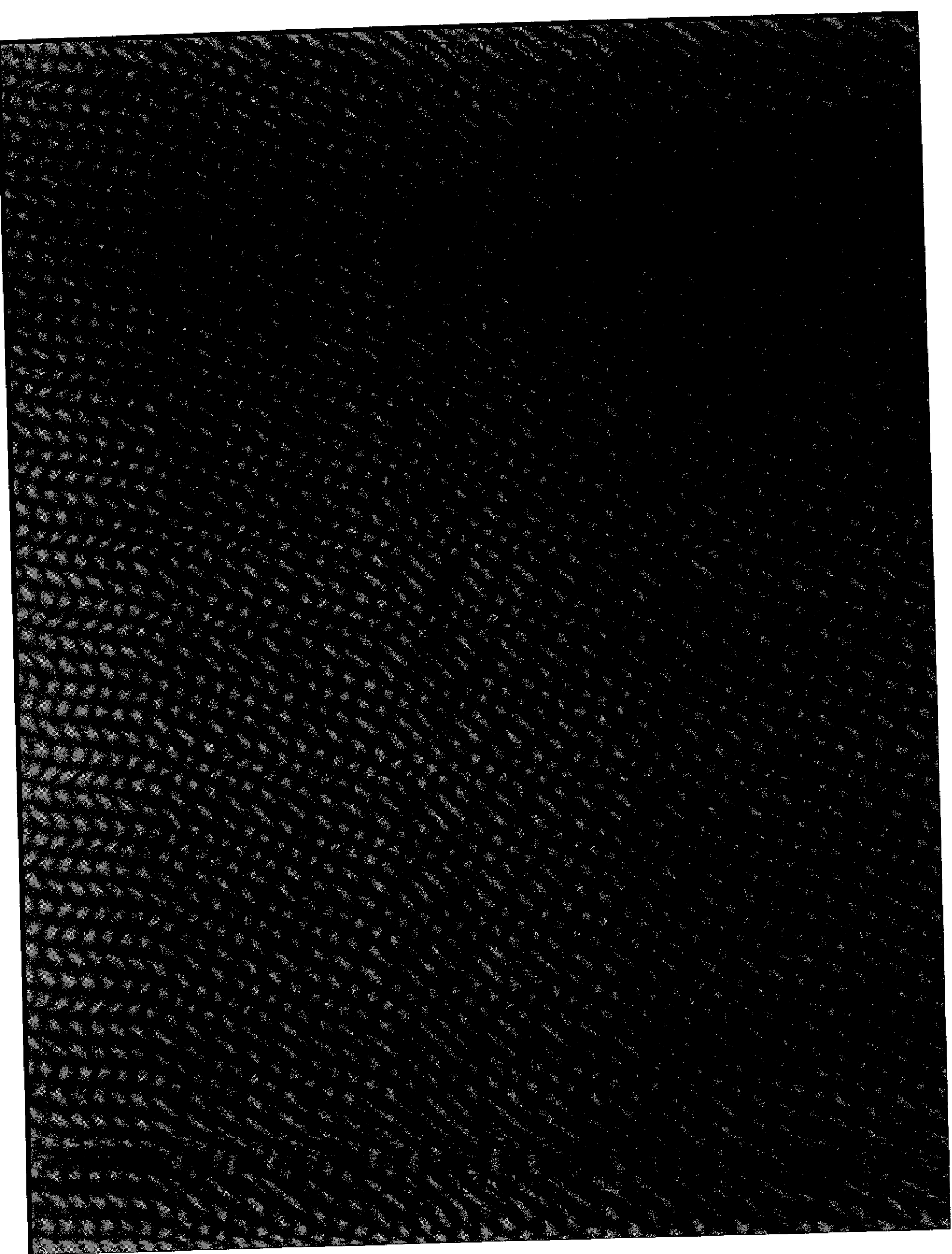
Summary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUN 2006 200500970

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 10 FEB 2024
APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DATE/CASE ID: 09 JUN 2008 200500970

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Press Statements Trade Shots

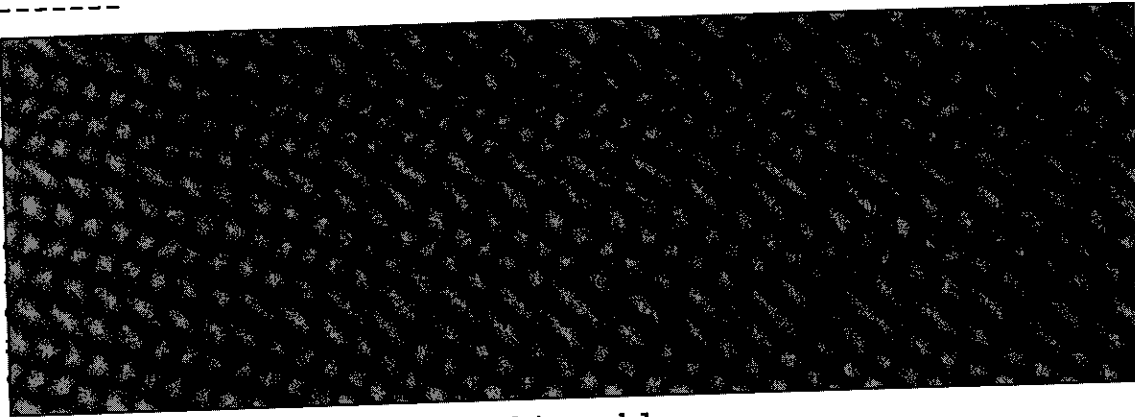
5. (U) Speaking to press after the meeting, DAS DeShazo reiterated USG support for the OAS and Carter Center, noting that their presence facilitated a peaceful, constitutional, democratic and legal solution in accordance with OAS Resolution 833. He backed up the observers' joint statement of February 13, highlighting the need to favor popular expression over excessive technicalities. In response to a question, DAS DeShazo recognized that the CNE will make the decision, but that it should do so free of political pressure. Asked about recent charges by President Chavez that the USG is funding allegedly seditious NGOs via the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), DeShazo pointed out that the NED's work has an established track record for supporting democracy worldwide and is open to a wide range of political actors. Both sides in Venezuela have received

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funding, DeShazo noted.

6. (U) VP Rangel, after meeting with DeShazo, told reporters he welcomed OAS and Carter Center participation. He said they would widen international observation to include other groups that observed the signature drives. He also warned the USG to refrain from casting the OAS and Carter Center as a parallel mechanism to the sovereign authority of the CNE. Rangel said he had asked DeShazo what the USG response would be if the CNE rejected the presidential recall petition and said he got no response. He then added that he did not care what the USG thinks since the matter is exclusively Venezuelan. Rangel renewed Chavez's accusations that the USG is funding the opposition, suggesting that those groups who took money might be guilty of violating a Supreme Court decision from 2001.

Comment



8. (U) DAS DeShazo cleared this cable.
SHAPIRO

NNNN

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